

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 EB-08 OMB-01 /084 W
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FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1088
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 8773

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: UNGA SHUM GH
SUBJECTC VOTES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS HIGH COMMISSIONER

REF: (A) STATE 275441, (B) USUN 4673

1. POLOFF DISCUSSED SUBJECT NOVEMBER 18 WITH ACTING
DIRECTOR SEHKYIAMAH, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND
CONFERENCES DIVISION, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND
LEFT AIDE-MEMOIRE AND TEXT OF RESOLUTION. SEHKYIAMAH
SAID HE WAS FAMILIAR WITH RESOLUTION FROM HIS DAYS AT
GHANA'S UN MISSION AND EXPLAINED AT LENGTH WHY GHANA
COULD NOT REPEAT NOT VOTE FOR IT. (DESPITE INFO TO THE CONTRARY
IN REF B). GIST OF ARGUMENT
WAS THAT IT IS TOO EARLY TO CREATE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS -- NEWLY DEVELOPED HUMAN RIGHTS
COVENANTS AND OTHER MECHANISMS SHOULD BE GIVEN A CHANCE
TO GET OFF THE GROUND BEFORE MORE "RADICAL" STEPS
TAKEN. SEHKYIAMAH INDICATED THAT CERTAIN FOES OF
HUMAN RIGHTS, E.G., WERE LOOKING FOR CHANCE TO
TORPEDO WHOLE EFFORT. UNLESS HIGH COMMISSIONER WAS A
"GOD-LIKE" FIGURE WHO COULD COMMAND BROADLY-BASED
INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT, FOES MIGHT WELL ATTACK HIS ACTIONS
AS REPRESENTING ONLY "EXTREMIST" VIEWS OF PRO-HUMAN
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RIGHTS STATES.

2. SEHKYIAMAH ALSO INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT IF, CONTRARY
TO HIS OWN EXPECTATIONS, A BANDWAGON GOT ROLLING AT
UNGA FOR HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, GHANA WOULD
THEN REEVALUATE ITS POSITION AND PROBABLY GO ALONG. IN
THE MEANTIME, HE CONCLUDED, GOG WOULD STUDY CLOSELY

BOTH TEXT OF RESOLUTION AND US VIEWS.

3. COMMENT: IF DECISION IS TAKEN TO LOBBY FOR THIS
RESOLUTION, USUN MAY WISH TO PRESENT USG VIEWS TO
VICTOR GBEHO, PRESENTLY HEAD OF GHANA'S UN DEL. IF DEMARCHE
MADE, PLEASE LET US KNOW OUTCOME.
SMITH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 18-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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